



Islamic Online University

Explanation of the Six Pillars of Faith

By Dr. Abdullah Al-Farsi

Notes based on Sharh Usool Al-Emaan by Shaykh
Muhammad ibn Saalih al-'Uthaimeen

Module 3

Second: Belief in Allah's Lordship (Ruboobiyyah)

Which means to believe that Allah (ﷻ) is the only Rabb without a partner or a helper.

The Rabb is the One to Whom belongs the Creation, Kingdom, and Command; There is no Creator but Allah (ﷻ); No Maalik (Possessor) except Him¹, and there is no Command but His, He, Most High, says:

أَلَا لَهُ الْخَلْقُ وَالْأَمْرُ

“His is the Creation and Commandment.”²

Allah (ﷻ) also said:

ذَٰلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ ۚ وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ مَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِن قِطْمِيرٍ

“Such is Allah your Rabb; His is the kingdom. And those, whom you invoke or call upon instead of Him, own not even a Qitmeer (the thin membrane over the data-stone).”³

It is not known that anyone had denied the Ruboobiyyah of Allah (ﷻ) except an arrogant person who does not believe what he says, like what happened to the Pharaoh when he said to his people:

أَنَا رَبُّكُمْ الْأَعْلَىٰ

“I am your Rabb, most high.”⁴

¹ Allah, Most Great, is the Possessor of every possessor. He permits whom He wishes to possess. Allah (ﷻ) possesses all the treasures of the heavens and the earth. All he good is in His Hand, He gives whom He wishes and takes from whom He wishes. Everything is in need of Allah (ﷻ). [Translator]

² Soorah Al-A'raf 7:54

³ Soorah Fatir 35:13, This great Aayah is a reminder for those who invoke upon the dead or the absent person(s) seeking help and refuge in them, that those whom you seek and call upon instead of Allah (ﷻ) don't possess even a Qitmeer. They cannot help themselves let alone those who call upon them. Those who seek refuge or intercession through the righteous in the graves have not correctly estimated Allah (ﷻ) as the One who gives and takes, the One who provides and sustains, the One who loves to be invoked Alone, etc. [Translator]

⁴ Soorah An-Nazi'at 79:24

And:

يٰۤأَيُّهَا ٱلْمَلَأُ مَا عَلِمْتُ لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرِى

“O chiefs! I know not that you have an Ilaah (a god) other than me.”⁵

What he said was not a matter of conviction. Allah (ﷻ) said:

وَجَحَدُوا بِهَا وَٱسْتَيْقَنَتَهَا ٱنْفُسُهُمْ ظُلْمًا وَعُلُوًّا فَٱنظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ ٱلْمُفْسِدِينَ ﴿١٤﴾

“And they belied then (the Aayaat: proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) wrongfully and arrogantly, though their own selves were convinced thereof [i.e. the Aayaat are from Allah, and Moosaa (ﷺ) is the Messenger of Allah in truth, but they disliked to obey Moosaa (ﷺ), and hated to believe in his Message of Tawheed.]”⁶

Allah (ﷻ) related what Moosaa (ﷺ) told the Pharaoh:

قَالَ لَقَدْ عَلِمْتَ مَا أَنزَلَ هَٰؤُلَاءِ إِلَّا رَبُّ ٱلسَّمَوٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ بِصَٰبِرٍ وَٱنِّى لَأَظُنُّكَ
يَٰفِرْعَوْنُ مَثْبُورًا ﴿١٦﴾

“[Moosaa (ﷺ)] said: ‘Verily, you know that these signs have been sent down by none but the Rabb of the heavens and the earth as clear (evidences i.e. proofs of Allah’s Oneness and His Omnipotence etc.). And I think you are, indeed, O Pharaoh doomed to destruction (away from all good!)’ ”⁷

For this reason, the Mushrikeen (the pagan Arabs) used to acknowledge the Ruboobiyyah of Allah (ﷻ) despite committing Shirk in His Ulooohiyyah. Allah (ﷻ) said:

قُلْ لِّمَنِ ٱلْأَرْضُ وَمَن فِيهَا إِن كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٨٤﴾ سَيَقُولُونَ لِلّٰهِ قُلْ أَفَلَا
تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٨٥﴾ قُلْ مَن رَّبُّ ٱلسَّمَوٰتِ ٱلسَّبْعِ وَرَبُّ ٱلْعَرْشِ ٱلْعَظِيمِ ﴿٨٦﴾ سَيَقُولُونَ

⁵ Soorah Al-Qasas 28:38

⁶ Soorah An-Naml 27:14

⁷ Soorah Al-Isra' 17:102

لِلَّهِ قُلُّ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٤٧﴾ قُلْ مَنْ بِيَدِهِ مَلَكُوتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ يُجِيرُ وَلَا يُجَارُ عَلَيْهِ
إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْمُونَ ﴿٤٨﴾ سَيَقُولُونَ لِلَّهِ قُلْ فَأَنَّى تُسْحَرُونَ ﴿٤٩﴾

“Say: ‘Whose is the earth and whosoever is therein? If you know!’ They will say: ‘It is Allah’s!’ Say: ‘Will you not then remember?’ Say: ‘Who is (the) Rabb of the seven heavens, and (the) Rabb of the Great ‘Arsh (Throne)?’ They will say: ‘Allah.’ Say: ‘Will you not then fear Allah (believe in His Oneness, obey Him, believe in the Resurrection and Recompense for each and every good or bad deed).’ Say: ‘In Whose Hand is the sovereignty of everything (i.e. treasures of each and everything)? And He protects (all), while against Whom there is no protector⁸, if you know.’ They will say: ‘All that belongs to Allah.’ Say: ‘How then are you deceived and turn away from the truth?’”⁹

He (ﷻ) also said:

وَلَيْن سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ لَيَقُولُنَّ خَلَقَهُنَّ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَلِيمُ ﴿٥٠﴾

“And indeed if you ask them, ‘Who has created the heavens and the earth?’ They will surely say: ‘Mighty, the All-Knower created them.’”¹⁰

He (ﷻ) further said:

وَلَيْن سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ خَلَقَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ فَأَنَّى يُؤْفَكُونَ ﴿٥١﴾

“And if you ask them who created them, they will surely say: ‘Allah’. How then are they turned away (from the worship of Allah Who created them)?”¹¹

The Command of ar-Rabb (Allah) comprises both the Al-Kawnee (Universal) and the Ash-Shar’ee (Legal or Judicial) Commands. Just as He is the One Who runs the affairs of the universe, Rulings it as He wants and in accordance with what is necessitated by His Wisdom, He is also the Judge Who rules it by means of Legislations that deals with Ibaadaat¹² and Laws governing all forms of Mu’aamalaat¹³, in conformity with His Wisdom.

⁸ If Allah (ﷻ) saves anyone none can punish or harm him, and if Allah (ﷻ) punishes or harms anyone none can save him. [Tafseer Al-Qurtubee, Volume 12, page 145].

⁹ Soorah Al-Mu'minun 23:84-89

¹⁰ Soorah Az-Zukhruf 43:9

¹¹ Soorah Az-Zukhruf 43:87

¹² Ibaadaat: Acts of worship done sincerely for Allah’s sake and in accordance with evidence from Qur’aan and (or) authentic Sunnah. [Translator]

So, whoever sets up a legislator besides Allah (ﷻ) in Ibaadaat or a judge in Mu'aamalaat commits Shirk and does not ascertain the Emaan.

¹³ Mu'aamalaat: All forms of mutual relations, treatment, procedures, behaviour, conduct (towards others), and interactions including social, business, transactions, etc. [Translator]